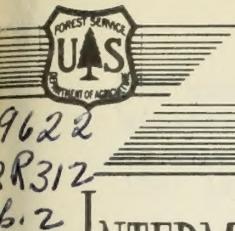


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Research Note

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN POLE PRODUCTION IN 1953

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The annual survey of pole production^{1/} in the northern Rocky Mountain area^{2/} shows a decrease in pole output from the previous year. The only species to show an increase was lodgepole pine.

Western redcedar continued to be the leading species, followed by lodgepole pine, western larch, and Douglas-fir, in that order (table 1). Lodgepole pine pole production surpassed that of western larch again after lagging behind for 2 years.

Table 1.--Number of poles produced in 1953

| Species | Northern Rocky Mountain Area | | | | Percent of Total |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------|-----------|---------|------------------------|
| | Montana | North | Northeast | Total | |
| | Idaho | Washington | | | |
| Western redcedar | 4,616 | 172,225 | 14,710 | 191,551 | 46.3 |
| Lodgepole pine | 128,523 | 0 | 0 | 128,523 | 31.1 |
| Western larch | 41,198 | 33,967 | 15,080 | 90,245 | 21.8 |
| Douglas-fir | 2,793 | 723 | 0 | 3,516 | 0.8 |
| Total | 177,130 | 206,915 | 29,790 | 413,835 | |
| Percent | 42.8 | 50.0 | 7.2 | | 100.0 |

1/ Sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Pole and Treating Association. The excellent cooperation of pole-producing companies is greatly appreciated. All known producers were contacted by mail and the production of those missed or who failed to report is believed to be less than 1 percent of the total production.

2/ Montana, Idaho north of the Salmon River, and the following counties of northeastern Washington: Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman.

The number of poles produced from sources within the northern Rocky Mountain area in 1953 was 51.1 percent of 1947 peak year production and 83.7 percent of 1952 production. The change in output from 1952 and 1947 is shown in table 2.

Table 2.--Percent change in total pole production 1953
from previous year and peak production year

| Species | Change from | | |
|------------------|-------------|---------|-------|
| | 1952 | Percent | 1947 |
| Western redcedar | -12.0 | | -17.0 |
| Lodgepole pine | +22.8 | | -63.4 |
| Western larch | -40.9 | | -59.3 |
| Douglas-fir | -81.5 | | -45.7 |
| Total | -16.3 | | -48.9 |

The poles reported in tables 1 and 2 were grown in the northern Rocky Mountain area. The processing firms also handle additional poles from the U. S. West Coast and Canada. Subsequent discussion and tabulations in this report refer to these total "marketed" pole numbers.

Since 1947, the year this pole survey began, the total pole output has fluctuated considerably from year to year (table 3) without indicating any definite trend. The total output for the 7-year period 1947-1953 is over 5-1/2 million poles--an important source of income to many people.

Table 3.--Total poles processed in the northern Rocky Mountain area
from all sources

| Year | Western redcedar | Lodgepole pine | Western larch | Douglas-fir | Total |
|-------|------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1947 | 448,544 | 375,545 | 252,205 | 91,134 | 1/ 1,167,428 |
| 1948 | 384,837 | 142,490 | 103,693 | 43,231 | 1/ 674,251 |
| 1949 | 521,847 | 186,262 | 143,888 | 58,606 | 910,603 |
| 1950 | 418,982 | 92,338 | 90,793 | 14,154 | 616,267 |
| 1951 | 283,171 | 136,628 | 138,852 | 39,662 | 598,313 |
| 1952 | 471,104 | 104,621 | 213,336 | 84,777 | 873,838 |
| 1953 | 443,570 | 128,818 | 90,246 | 13,218 | 675,852 |
| Total | 2,972,055 | 1,166,702 | 1,033,013 | 344,782 | 5,516,552 |

1/ Ponderosa pine poles were reported for these years: 1947, 6,557; 1948, 804.

The classification of poles reported by northern Rocky Mountain firms in 1953 is shown in table 4 by species, American Standards Association class, and length. A significant increase in output of certain classes of short lodgepole pine poles is evident. In general, the 1953 production shifted toward shorter poles.

Table 4.--Classification of 1953 pole production by species, A.S.A. class, and length. Northern Rocky Mountain area

| Pole length Feet | A.S.A. Class | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|--------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | All |
| Percent of total | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Western redcedar | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 & shorter | .13 | .18 | .64 | .77 | 1.26 | 2.85 | 2.52 | 1.34 | 1.56 | .17 | 11.42 |
| 30 | .22 | .34 | .65 | 1.35 | 3.30 | 9.27 | 5.09 | 1.59 | .53 | 1/0 | 22.34 |
| 35 | .34 | .63 | 1.61 | 4.28 | 8.41 | 6.80 | 4.77 | .24 | 1/- | 0 | 27.08 |
| 40 | .35 | .79 | 2.02 | 5.66 | 5.35 | 1.79 | .07 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16.03 |
| 45 | .45 | .92 | 2.03 | 2.89 | 1.05 | .02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7.36 |
| 50 | .57 | 1.04 | 1.68 | 1.88 | .15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.32 |
| 55 & longer | 2.26 | 3.16 | 3.08 | 1.94 | .01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10.45 |
| All | 4.32 | 7.06 | 11.71 | 18.77 | 19.53 | 20.73 | 12.45 | 3.17 | 2.09 | .17 | 100.00 |
| Lodgepole pine | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 & shorter | .01 | .02 | .03 | .10 | .59 | 1.93 | 14.40 | .76 | 24.49 | 17.76 | 60.09 |
| 30 | - | .03 | .09 | .13 | .53 | 2.85 | 8.80 | .13 | .97 | .48 | 14.01 |
| 35 | .02 | .03 | .13 | .70 | 2.72 | 7.38 | 7.69 | 0 | 0 | .04 | 18.71 |
| 40 | .03 | .06 | .37 | 1.05 | 2.13 | 2.16 | .06 | 0 | 0 | - | 5.86 |
| 45 | .01 | .06 | .28 | .29 | .15 | .20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .99 |
| 50 | - | .02 | .11 | .03 | .02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .18 |
| 55 & longer | .01 | .04 | .08 | .03 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | .16 |
| All | .08 | .26 | 1.09 | 2.33 | 6.14 | 14.52 | 30.95 | .89 | 25.46 | 18.28 | 100.00 |
| Western larch | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 & shorter | .04 | .05 | .27 | .63 | 1.93 | 2.97 | 4.93 | .16 | 4.67 | 1.55 | 17.20 |
| 30 | .14 | .23 | .50 | .81 | .79 | 3.16 | 3.63 | .34 | .59 | .03 | 10.22 |
| 35 | .43 | .31 | 1.89 | 6.89 | 9.12 | 5.99 | 3.25 | .01 | .01 | 0 | 27.90 |
| 40 | .54 | .80 | 3.15 | 6.53 | 2.14 | .48 | .01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13.65 |
| 45 | .29 | .62 | 1.89 | 2.81 | .21 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.82 |
| 50 | 4.39 | 5.91 | 5.45 | 1.54 | .21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17.50 |
| 55 & longer | 1.24 | 2.79 | 2.99 | .68 | .01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7.71 |
| All | 7.07 | 10.71 | 16.14 | 19.89 | 14.41 | 12.60 | 11.82 | .51 | 5.27 | 1.58 | 100.00 |
| Douglas-fir | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 & shorter | .04 | .58 | .10 | .18 | .24 | .13 | .03 | 0 | .01 | 0 | 1.31 |
| 30 | .25 | .73 | .80 | 1.77 | 5.19 | 11.08 | 13.62 | .02 | .11 | 0 | 33.57 |
| 35 | .33 | 1.60 | 3.76 | 7.03 | 8.87 | 8.49 | 3.20 | .02 | 0 | 0 | 33.30 |
| 40 | .54 | 2.47 | 1.75 | 4.71 | 2.32 | .19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11.98 |
| 45 | .51 | .86 | 2.01 | 2.07 | .09 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.54 |
| 50 | .25 | 1.08 | 2.10 | 1.70 | .08 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.21 |
| 55 & longer | 1.11 | 4.04 | 3.55 | .39 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9.09 |
| All | 3.03 | 11.36 | 14.07 | 17.85 | 16.79 | 19.89 | 16.85 | .04 | .12 | 0 | 100.00 |
| All Species | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 & shorter | .09 | .15 | .47 | .62 | 1.20 | 2.64 | 4.93 | 1.06 | 6.06 | 3.51 | 20.73 |
| 30 | .17 | .28 | .53 | 1.07 | 2.51 | 7.37 | 5.74 | 1.13 | .61 | .09 | 19.50 |
| 35 | .30 | .50 | 1.42 | 4.02 | 7.48 | 6.84 | 5.07 | .16 | - | .01 | 25.80 |
| 40 | .32 | .69 | 1.87 | 4.92 | 4.30 | 1.65 | .06 | 0 | 0 | - | 13.81 |
| 45 | .35 | .71 | 1.70 | 2.40 | .77 | .05 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.98 |
| 50 | .95 | 1.49 | 1.89 | 1.50 | .13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5.96 |
| 55 & longer | 1.70 | 2.57 | 2.54 | 1.40 | .01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8.22 |
| All | 3.88 | 6.39 | 10.42 | 15.93 | 16.40 | 18.55 | 15.80 | 2.35 | 6.67 | 3.61 | 100.00 |

1/ Dash (-) indicates less than 0.01 percent; zero (0), no production.

